



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Before the Primary Examiner

In re Application of : )  
HAROLD R. KAUFMAN et al. )  
Serial No. 09/848,644 )  
Filed: May 3, 2001 )  
For: IMPROVED HALL-CURRENT ION SOURCE )

Group Art Unit: 879  
Examiner: Holly Harper

Attorney Docket No. 353-07

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks  
Washington, D. C. 20231

RESPONSE

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action  
mailed November 18, 2002.

Reconsideration is requested.

It is noted, with appreciation, that claims 1-3 and 5-8 have  
been allowed.

Claims 4 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as  
being unpatentable over Kaufman (U.S. Patent No. 5,763,989).

The Examiner admits that the cited Kaufman reference doesn't  
specifically disclose a baffle means as required in applicants'  
claims 4 and 9. The Examiner contends, however, that the Kaufman  
reference discloses an anode with two distinct pieces, that the  
anode pieces are "electrically isolated", and that one of the  
anode pieces could serve as a baffle means.

Although the Kaufman reference (Fig. 12) does disclose an  
anode with two distinct pieces, those anode pieces are not  
electrically isolated from each other. Rather, they are both at  
anode potential (Col. 11, lines 48-51). Also, one of the anode

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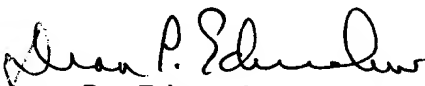
pieces (102A) is magnetically permeable but the other part (102B) is not.

Applicants' claims 4 and 9 specifically recite that the baffle means is "electrically isolated from said anode". Applicants' claims further recite that the baffle means is configured so that approximately one-third or more of the area of the electron-collecting surface of the anode cannot be reached by straight lines originating from a given point exterior of the ion source.

It is clear that the cited Kaufman reference does not disclose or suggest the feature of baffle means "electrically isolated from said anode", nor does that reference suggest baffle means configured so that approximately one-third or more of the area of the electron-collecting surface of the anode cannot be reached by straight lines originating from a point exterior of the ion source.

Because the cited Kaufman reference does not disclose or suggest the features of applicants' claims, applicants submit that the Section 103(a) rejection is unsound and should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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DATE January 28, 2003